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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE
FOR A FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE
CHANGE
Seventh session
New York, 15-20 March 1993
Agenda item 7

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS SEVENTH SESSION

Draft report*

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The seventh session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change was held at New York from 15 to 20 March 1993. The meeting was convened in accordance with paragraphs 6 and 7 of General Assembly resolution 47/195 of 22 December 1992 entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind".

II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Opening of the session

2. The session of the Committee was opened by the Chairman, Mr. Jean Ripert (France). In welcoming the participants, the Chairman recalled that the main purpose of the session was to discuss the financial mechanism for the Convention in accordance with the decision contained in paragraph 53 of the report of the Committee on its sixth session (A/AC.237/24). He drew attention to the need to elect a new Chairman and to replace several members of the Bureaux of the Committee, who, for a variety of reasons, had relinquished their posts.

3. The Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, Mr. Nitin Desai, addressed the session. He paid tribute to the outgoing Chairman for his leadership in the negotiations, which had resulted in the adoption of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Convention was more than an environmental convention. Indeed, it addressed a global environmental problem, but the responses to the problem cut across many aspects of development and economic activity. The Convention was therefore the first ever convention on sustainable development. He assured the Committee of his full support and the support of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, for which he was responsible, in the follow-up of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and in the functioning of the newly established Commission for Sustainable Development. Every effort would be made to ensure that the interim secretariat for the Convention would preserve its identity within his Department and would receive appropriate strengthening to carry out its functions, as called for in General Assembly resolution 47/195. He wished the Committee every success in its work.

4. Ms. Elizabeth Dowdeswell, newly appointed Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), addressed the Committee at its 4th meeting, on 16 March. She congratulated the new Chairman and other members of the Bureau on their election and made special mention of the unique role played by the outgoing Chairman throughout the negotiations. The main purpose of her statement was to reiterate and reinforce the commitment she had made at the sixth session of the Committee that UNEP would be fully supportive of the needs of the Convention. UNEP, and indeed also the World Meteorological Organization, had received mandates from the General Assembly, their own governing bodies and the Convention itself, and both were uniquely equipped to pursue those mandates. UNEP was already deeply involved in joint activities with other organizations, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

(OECD), in developing methodologies for inventories of greenhouse gas emissions and sinks, as well as for impact assessments, and was conducting country studies in several countries. Those activities would be pursued vigorously, as would others which might be developed to assist the Committee and the implementation of the Convention. Specific projects which could be developed jointly with the interim secretariat included the setting up of a clearing house. She noted that those matters would be discussed under the Committee's agenda, and again pledged the full cooperation of UNEP. UNEP also planned to resume secondment of staff to support the secretariat in its work. She wished the Committee every success in its deliberations.

5. At the 2nd meeting, on 15 March, the representatives of Colombia (on behalf of the Group of 77) and the United States of America made statements.

B. Election of officers

6. Following extensive informal consultations, the Committee, at its 3rd plenary meeting, on 16 March, elected the following officers to fill vacancies in the Bureaux of the Committee and of the two Working Groups:

Chairman:	Mr. Raúl Estrada-Oyuela (Argentina)
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaf (Algeria) Mr. Maciej Sadowski (Poland) Mr. T. P. Sreenivasan (India) Ms. Penelope Wensley (Australia)
Rapporteur:	Mr. Maciej Sadowski (Poland)

Working Group I

Co-Chairmen:	Mr. Mahmoud Ould El Ghaouth (Mauritania) Ms. Cornelia Quennet (Germany)
Vice-Chairman: (in charge of consultations)	Mr. Edmundo de Alba Alcaraz (Mexico)

Working Group II

Co-Chairmen:	Mr. Nobutoshi Akao (Japan) Mr. Robert F. Van Lierop (Vanuatu)
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. Tibor Faragó (Hungary)

7. The newly elected Chairman, Mr. Raúl Estrada-Oyuela (Argentina), paid tribute to the outgoing Chairman. Mr. Ripert had worked tirelessly to achieve success in the negotiations for the Convention. He had more than fulfilled his responsibilities to the international community and was a credit to his country, France, which had shown its appreciation in elevating him to the rank of Commander of the Legion of Honour. Mr. Estrada thanked the other outgoing members of the Bureau for their contribution to the work of the Committee. He

also thanked Messrs. Nobutoshi Akao (Japan) and Edmundo de Alba Alcaraz (Mexico) for their outstanding cooperation in facilitating the election of officers. He thanked the Committee for electing him to this highly responsible position and pledged his best efforts to conduct the work of the Committee effectively and efficiently.

8. Statements were made by the representatives of Bangladesh, Barbados, the Czech Republic, Ireland and Nigeria, on behalf of their respective regional groups. The representative of Vanuatu made a statement on behalf of the Association of Small Island States. Statements were also made by the representatives of Latvia and the Russian Federation.

9. The Executive Secretary expressed special thanks to the outgoing Chairman. It had been a rare privilege to work with Mr. Ripert, who had provided the secretariat with every guidance, help and support. The secretariat would continue to make every effort to further the work of the Committee and its Bureau.

C. Adoption of the agenda

10. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 15 March 1993, the Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Organizational matters:

   (a) Election of officers;

   (b) Adoption of the agenda;

   (c) Organization of work.

2. Matters relating to arrangements for the financial mechanism and for technical and financial support to developing country Parties:

   (a) Implementation of Article 11 (Financial mechanism), paras. 1-4;

   (b) Provision to developing country Parties of technical and financial support.

3. Procedural, institutional and legal matters: rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties.

4. Status of signature and ratification of the Convention.

5. Future sessions of the Committee: calendar and priorities.

6. Review of the activities of the interim secretariat, including review of extrabudgetary funds.

7. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its seventh session.

11. The Committee decided to consider under agenda item 5 the letter dated 1 March 1993 from the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to the Chairman of the Committee (A/AC.237/29, annex).

D. Organization of work

12. At its 1st meeting, on 15 March, the Committee approved the organization of its work as contained in document A/AC.237/25.

E. Attendance

13. The seventh session was attended by representatives of the following States:

[to be inserted]

14. The following United Nations offices and programmes were represented:

[to be inserted]

15. The following specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system were represented:

[to be inserted]

16. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented:

[to be inserted]

17. The following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council were represented:

[to be inserted]

18. The following other non-governmental organizations were also represented:

[to be inserted]

19. The following organization was represented by an observer:

[to be inserted]

F. Documentation

20. The documents before the Committee at its seventh session are listed in the annex to the present report.